

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 02796 202101Z

62

ACTION EUR-25

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NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 2796

E.O. 11652: GDS 12/31/80

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: SUB-GROUP ON TACTICAL AIR (SGTA): MEETING MAY 14-17

REF: A. STATE 99391

B. USNATO 874

SUMMARY. AT MEETING MAY 14-17 MBFR SUB-GROUP ON TACTICAL AIR (SGTA) INCORPORATED US PROPOSALS TO EXTEND THE AIR CAMPAIGN TO 15 DAYS AND INCLUDE THE 1975 AIRCRAFT SHELTER DATA WITH PREVIOUSLY AGREED EXCURSIONS TO THE BASE CASE AIR CAMPAIGN. SGTA MEMBERS MADE NUMEROUS CHANGES TO THE DRAFT REPORT ON THE AIR CAMPAIGN ANALYSES. THE MOST IMPORTANT CHANGE ADDS AN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AT THE BEGINNING OF THE REPORT. AN AD HOC MEETING IS PLANNED FOR EARLY JUNE TO INCORPORATE THE CHANGES INTO A REVISED DRAFT REPORT. END SUMMARY.

1. MBFR STAFF LEADER (GROUP CAPTAIN SMITH) OPENED MEETING
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NATO 02796 202101Z

BY READING MESSAGE FROM HOSPITALIZED SGTA CHAIRMAN (GROUP CAPTAIN DAWSON). HE THEN STATED THAT THE SUB-GROUP'S EXPERTISE ON AIR MATTER MIGHT BE NEEDED EVEN MORE AFTER FINISHING THE REPORT IN VIEW OF THE INCREASING PRESSURE BY

WARSAW PACT NEGOTIATORS IN VIENNA FOR INCLUDING AIR FORCES IN MBFR.

2. THE BRITISH DEFENSE OPERATIONS ANALYSIS EVALUATION (DOAE) REP THEN PRESENTED THE RESULTS OF COMPUTER RUNS TO THE SUB-GROUP BASED ON THE MATRIX OF ASSUMPTIONS DEVELOPED IN THE LAST MEETING AND THE RESULTS OF THE US PROPOSAL TO EXTEND THE AIR CAMPAIGN FROM 8 TO 15 DAYS AND INCLUDE AIRCRAFT SHELTERS THROUGH 1975. SUB-GROUP DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEM I CENTERED AROUND FACTUAL RESULTS OF THE COMPUTER PRINTOUTS. ONE INCONSISTENCY IN THE AIR CAMPAIGN PRINTOUT OMITTED WP AIR DEFENSE FIGHTER SURVIVING FROM D PLUS 3 ONWARD. THESE SURVIVING AIRCRAFT WILL BE ADDED TO THE NUMBER OF WP AIR DEFENSE FISHBED AIRCRAFT WHEN THEY ARE COMMITTED IN THEIR SECONDARY GROUND ATTACK ROLE.

3. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE SUBSTANCE AND ACCEPTABILITY OF THE MATRIX OF ASSUMPTIONS AND US PROPOSALS WOULD BE DISCUSSED UNDER AGENDA ITEM III. IN ANTICIPATION OF THE DISCUSSION ON SUBSTANCE AND STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT, THE US AND SHAPE REPS ISSUED HANDOUTS OUTLINING PROPOSED STRUCTURAL AND PRESENTATIONAL ASPECTS OF THE REPORT. BOTH POINTED OUT THE DESIRABILITY OF AN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY TO HIGHLIGHT THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF THE MORE DETAILED SUB-GROUP REPORT.

4. UNDER AGENDA ITEM IC THE US REP, DRAWING ON GUIDANCE IN REF A, MADE A STATEMENT EMPHASIZING ADEQUACY OF PREVIOUS F-111 EFFECTIVENESS DATA PROVIDED TO THE SUB-GROUP. US REP FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT THE US HAD A HIGH DEGREE OF CONFIDENCE IN THE RELIABILITY OF THE F-111 EFFECTIVENESS PARAMETERS USED IN THE AIR CAMPAIGN.

5. UNDER AGENDA ITEM II, THE SUB-GROUP TOOK NOTE OF TWO PRESENTATIONS BY DOAE ON EMPLOYMENT OF WP MEDIUM BOMBERS AT NIGHT, AND FORWARD DEPLOYMENT OF SOVIET AIR DEFENSE AIRCRAFT TO REINFORCE BATTLEFIELD COMBAT AIR PATROL. THE SUB-GROUP AGREED TO EXAMINE THESE ITEMS IN MORE DETAIL IN CONJUNCTION
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NATO 02796 202101Z

WITH THE DRAFT REPORT. A PRESENTATION ON FINAL CORRECTIONS OF THE AIR CAMPAIGN ANALYSIS RESULTS DISCLOSED VARIATIONS IN SORTIES FLOWN AND AIRCRAFT REMAINING OF LESS THAN 10 PERCENT. THESE INACCURACIES DID NOT BRING ABOUT A CHANGE IN TREND RESULTS. HOWEVER, FOR THE MAIN CASES OF THE REPORT, THE RESULTANT PRE-AND POST-REDUCTION CAMPAIGNS WILL BE RE-RUN AND INCLUDED IN THE REVISED REPORT.

6. UNDER AGENDA ITEM III, THE SUB-GROUP ACCEPTED THE US PROPOSAL DETAILED IN REF B TO EXTEND THE AIR CAMPAIGN FROM 8 TO 15 DAYS AND TO INCLUDE AIRCRAFT SHELTER DATA THROUGH 1975. (15 DAYS ACCEPTED IN LIEU OF 16 BECAUSE OF COMPUTER LIMITATIONS). THE EFFECT IS TO OFFSET THE MATRIX OF ASSUMPTIONS DEVELOPED

IN THE SUB-GROUP MEETING LAST DECEMBER, WHICH SHOULD JUSTIFY REMOVING THE US RESERVATIONS ON THE MATRIX OF ASSUMPTIONS. THE MOST IMPORTANT OTHER CHANGE WAS AGREEMENT TO INCLUDE AN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AT THE BEGINNING OF THE REPORT OUTLINING THE BACKGROUND, TERMS OF REFERENCE, CONTENTS, METHODOLOGY, AND CAUTIONS. THE SUB-GROUP PLANS AN AD HOC MEETING FOR EARLY JUNE TO INCORPORATE THESE CHANGES INTO A REVISED DRAFT REPORT.

7. THE FRG REP INDICATED THEY MIGHT HAVE TO INSIST ON FOOTNOTES IN THE REPORT, GIVING THEIR VIEW OF THE UNLIKELIHOOD OF THE (A) M PLUS 23/30 SCENARIO, (B) AN AIR CAMPAIGN WHICH LASTS 15 DAYS, AND (C) ANY CASES OTHER THAN THE WORST CASE FOR NATO AGGREGATION OF EXCURSIONS PROPOSED BY SHAPE. THE US REP REPLIED THAT ALL NATIONS HAD DOUBTS REGARDING DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF THE STUDY, AND THAT THE SUB-GROUP SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE VIEWS OF ALL AND NOT EXCLUDE OR DEPRECATE THE VIEWS OF ANY. IT WOULD BE MOST DESIRABLE TO FIND A FORMULATION SUFFICIENTLY ACCEPTABLE TO ALL SO AS TO OBTAIN THE NEED FOR NATIONAL FOOTNOTES.

8. UNDER ANY OTHER BUSINESS, THE CHAIRMAN EXPRESSED A NEED FOR ADDITIONAL HELP TO PREPARE FOR FUTURE MEETINGS IN VIEW OF THE ABSENCE OF THE SUB-GROUP CHAIRMAN AND THE INCREASED DRAFTING WORK. SHAPE OFFERED TO MAKE CAPT FAHEY AVAILABLE ON A LOAN BASIS. COMMENT: MISSION BELIEVES IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF USAF COULD ALSO LOAN CAPT MEYER, ITS OBSERVER TO THE LAST MEETING, TO THE IMS STAFF GROUP FOR A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME.
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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 NATO 02796 202101Z

CONFIDENTIAL

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